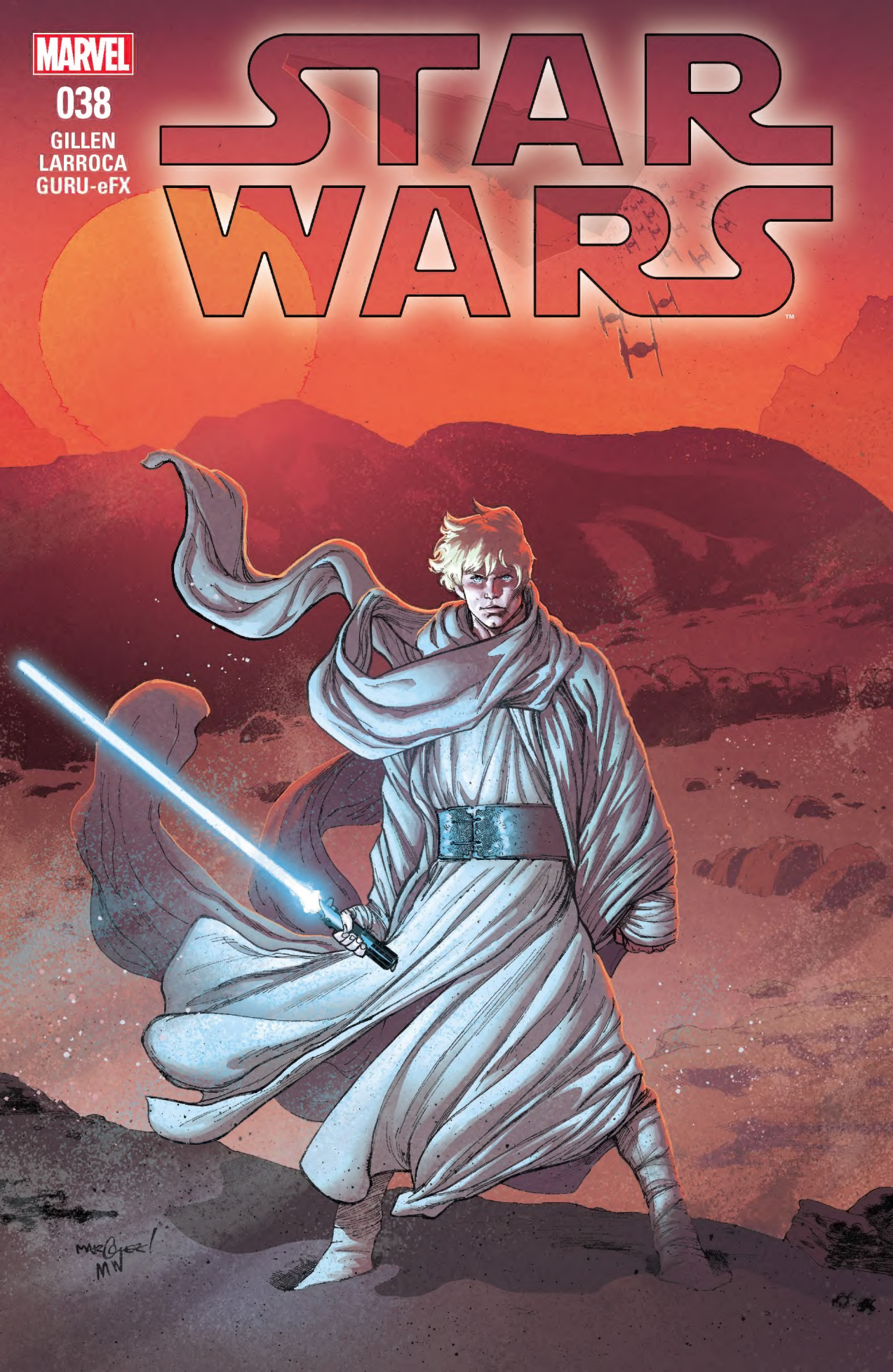
MARVEL
038
GILLEN
LARROCA
GURU-eFX
STAR WARS

Part I

THE ASHES OF JEDHA

It is period of high tension in the galaxy.

Rebellion leaders Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker, joined by smugglers Han Solo and Sana Starros, are leading the mission to find a new base for their operation.

Meanwhile, the Galactic Empire has returned to Jedha in an attempt to collect the remaining kyber crystals that survived the Death Star's attack....

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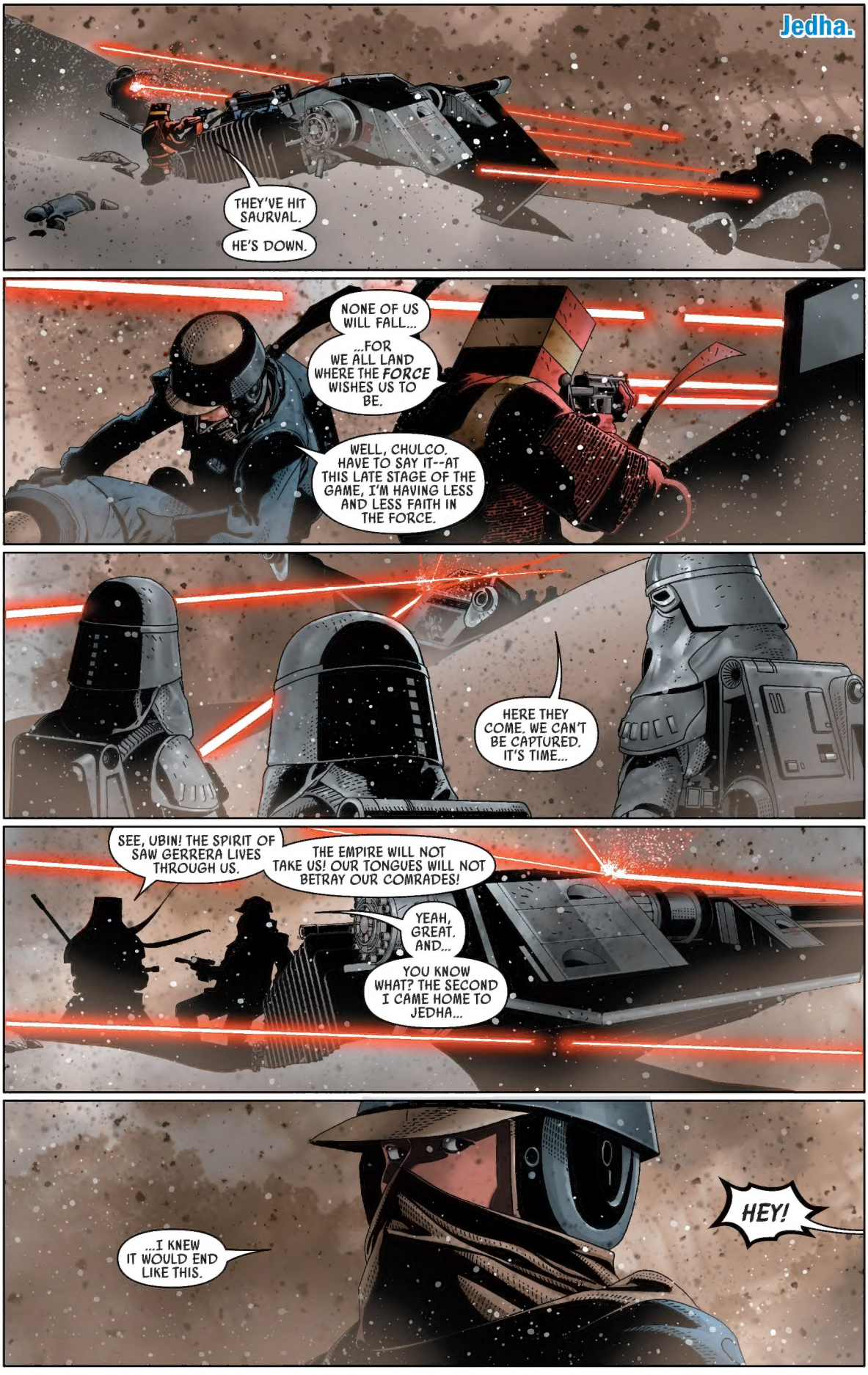
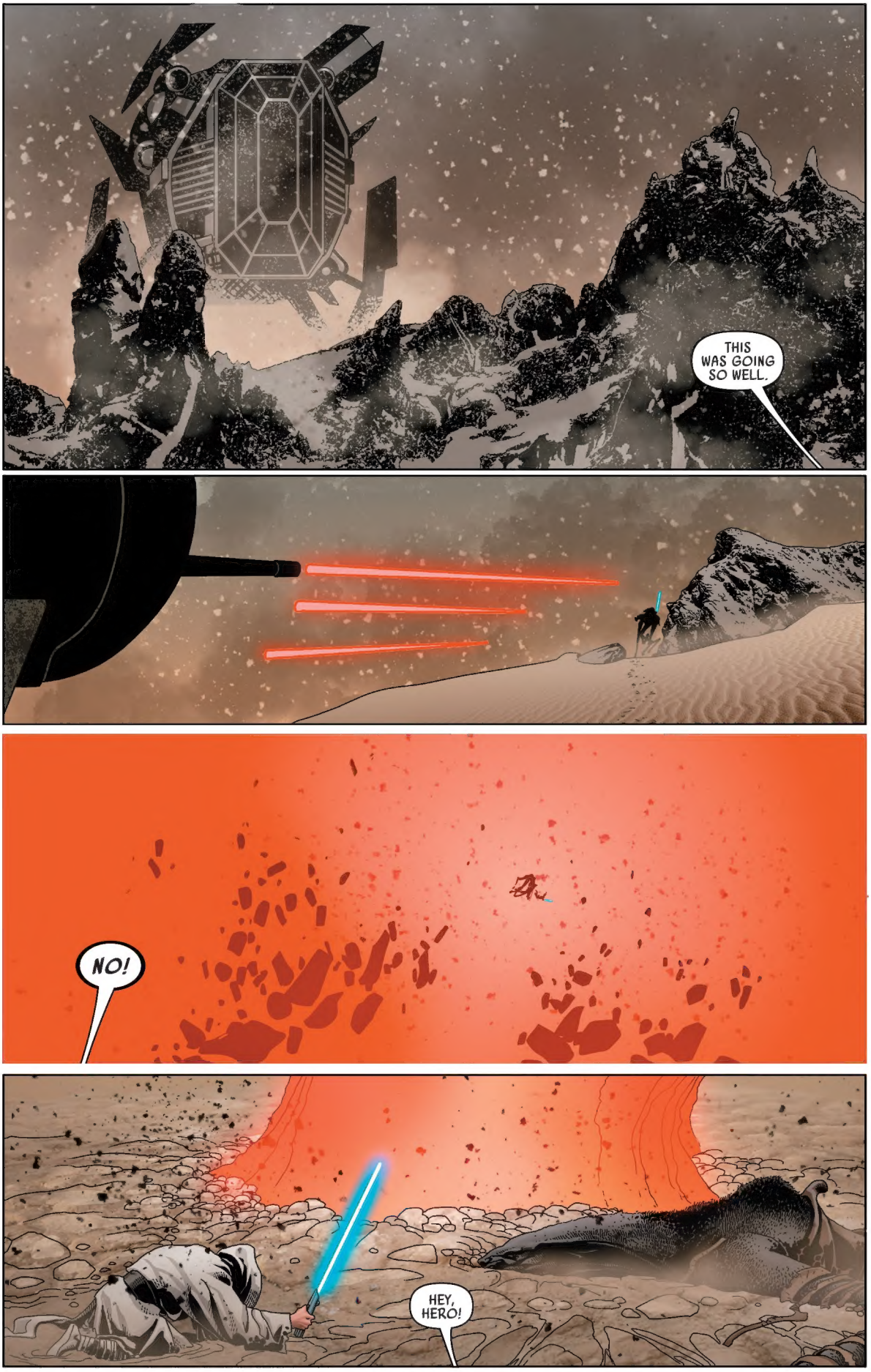

Jedha.
THEY'VE HIT SAURVAL.
HE'S DOWN.
NONE OF US WILL FALL...
...FOR WE ALL LAND WHERE THE FORCE WISHES US TO BE.
WELL, CHULCO. HAVE TO SAY IT--AT THIS LATE STAGE OF THE GAME, I'M HAVING LESS AND LESS FAITH IN THE FORCE.
HERE THEY COME. WE CAN'T BE CAPTURED. IT'S TIME...
SEE, UBIN! THE SPIRIT OF SAW GERRERA LIVES THROUGH US.
THE EMPIRE WILL NOT TAKE US! OUR TONGUES WILL NOT BETRAY OUR COMRADES!
YEAH, GREAT. AND...
YOU KNOW WHAT? THE SECOND I CAME HOME TO JEDHA...
...I KNEW IT WOULD END LIKE THIS.
HEY!

IT DOESN'T.

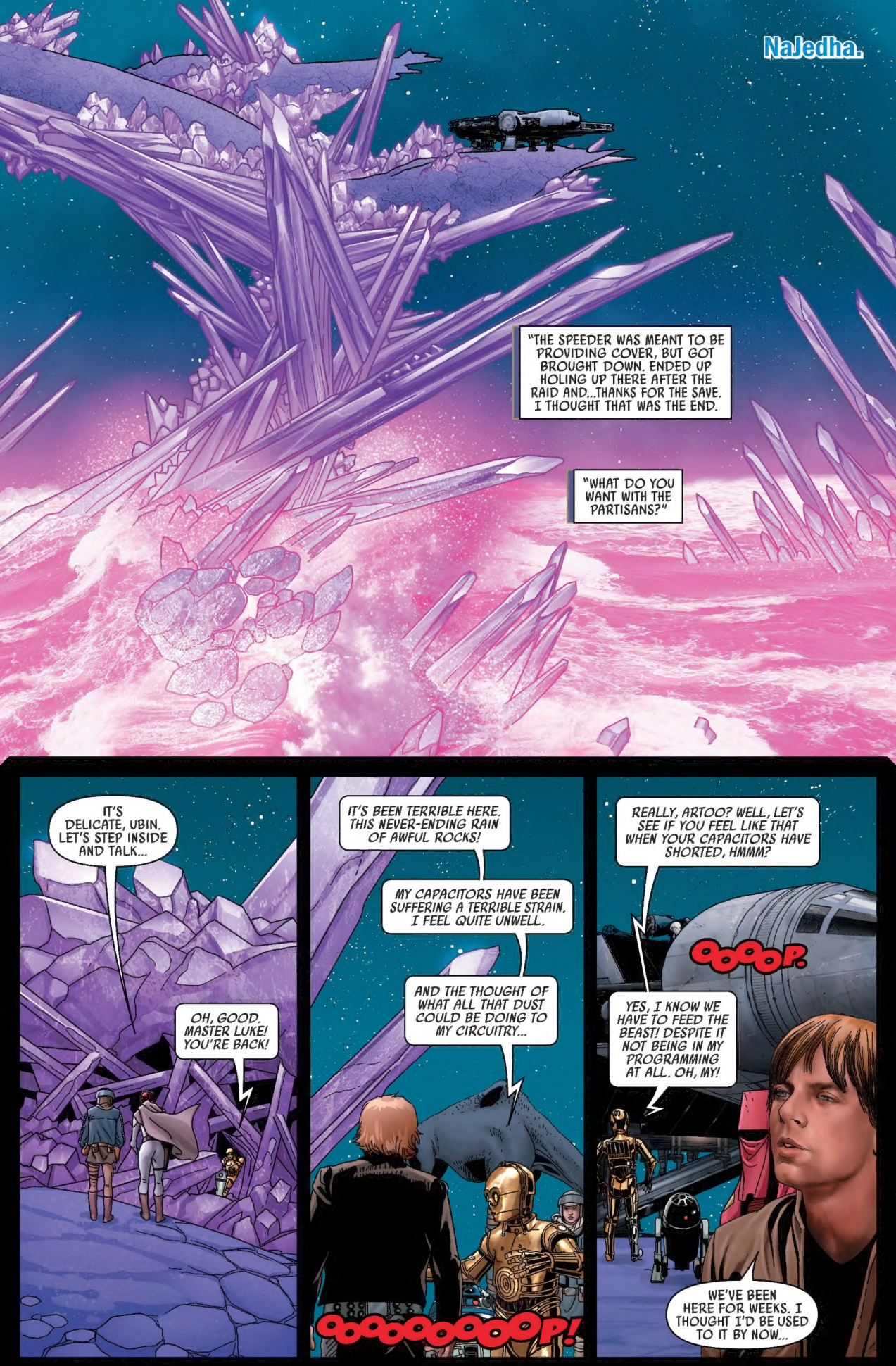
WHAT?
WE'RE THE CAVALRY. THE... STRANGE, WHATEVER-THESE-ARE-CALLED RIDING CAVALRY.
WE'RE REBELS. WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE PARTISANS WHO WORKED WITH SAW GERRERA.
YOU'VE FOUND THEM.
GOOD. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
LUKE! LET'S GO!
OH, GREAT.


THIS WAS GOING SO WELL.
NO!
HEY, HERO!

COME ABOARD!
IT DOESN'T END LIKE THIS, EITHER.
C'MON, CHEWIE!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITHOUT YOU?
HRRRRRRGH!
THE FALCON NEEDS YOU! I DON'T SEE WHY ANY MISSION MISS HIGH AND PRINCESS-Y HAS COULD MEAN YOU CAN'T BE HERE.
HELL, THE FALCON DOESN'T HANDLE WELL WITHOUT AN EXPERIENCED CO-PILOT. I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT INTO THIS--
HAN! WE'VE FOUND THEM!
GET THE FALCON MOVING AND THE RAMP DOWN.
WE NEED TO LEAVE! QUICKLY!

YOU HAVE A LIGHTSABER!
ARE YOU... JEDI?
WELL...
...I'M TRYING!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!

GET US OUT OF HERE!
THANKS FOR THE LEADERSHIP, YOUR MAJESTY...
...LEIA, I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM IMPERIALS LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN WALKING!


"THE SPEEDER WAS MEANT TO BE PROVIDING COVER, BUT GOT BROUGHT DOWN. ENDED UP HOLING UP THERE AFTER THE RAID AND...THANKS FOR THE SAVE. I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END.
"WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THE PARTISANS?"
IT'S DELICATE, UBIN. LET'S STEP INSIDE AND TALK...
OH, GOOD. MASTER LUKE! YOU'RE BACK!
IT'S BEEN TERRIBLE HERE. THIS NEVER-ENDING RAIN OF AWFUL ROCKS!
MY CAPACITORS HAVE BEEN SUFFERING A TERRIBLE STRAIN. I FEEL QUITE UNWELL.
AND THE THOUGHT OF WHAT ALL THAT DUST COULD BE DOING TO MY CIRCUITRY...
OOOOOOOOOP!
REALLY, ARTOO? WELL, LET'S SEE IF YOU FEEL LIKE THAT WHEN YOUR CAPACITORS HAVE SHORTED, HMMM?
OOOOP.
YES, I KNOW WE HAVE TO FEED THE BEAST! DESPITE IT NOT BEING IN MY PROGRAMMING AT ALL. OH, MY!
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR WEEKS. I THOUGHT I'D BE USED TO IT BY NOW...

...THAT'S STILL THE WORST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.
IT FEELS SO WRONG.
YES. A HOLY MOON, MAIMED, DYING.
I CALL THE FIERY RAIN JEDHA'S TEARS.
I WEEP ALONG WITH HER.
ARE YOU... SOME KIND OF PRIEST?

NO. I AM CHULCO GI. I AM AN ASPIRANT TO THE DISCIPLES OF THE WHILLS.
I WAS COMPLETING THE SEVENFOLD STEPS OF MY ORDER.
BUT TO DO SO, I MUST MEDITATE FOR THE MONTH IN THE SACRED TEMPLE.
THE SACRED TEMPLE WAS DESTROYED BY THE IMPERIAL BLADE.
THE PLANET IS DYING. THE SEAS REBEL. THE FORCE IS SICKENED HERE.
THE WORLD SCREAMS. THE *UNIVERSE* SCREAMS.
BUT EVEN *THIS* MUST BE AS THE FORCE WILLS IT.
AS BAD AS THIS IS, I HAVE FAITH. THIS MUST BE FOR A REASON.
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

I AM--
PRINCESS LEIA OF ALDERAAN.
I KNOW WHO YOU ALL ARE.
DON'T WORRY. I'M UBIN DES. I...WAS WITH THE ALLIANCE UNTIL RECENTLY.
I WAS AT YAVIN. I'D HAVE BEEN ON SCARIF IF I WEREN'T IN THE SICK BAY AT THE TIME.
AFTER I HEARD ABOUT JEDHA, I CAME BACK HOME AND JOINED THE REFORMED PARTISANS. THEY COULD USE SOMEONE WITH SPECFORCE TRAINING.
THE IMPERIALS ALMOST CUT JEDHA IN TWO AND THEN COME BACK TO SIFT THROUGH THE REMAINS?
IT'S LIKE CORPSE ROBBING. THEY'VE TAKEN SO MUCH AND STILL THEY WANT MORE? THEY HAVE TO BE STOPPED.
WE AGREE.
BUT THE REBEL ALLIANCE, MORE THAN EVER, NEEDS TO BE AN *ALLIANCE*.

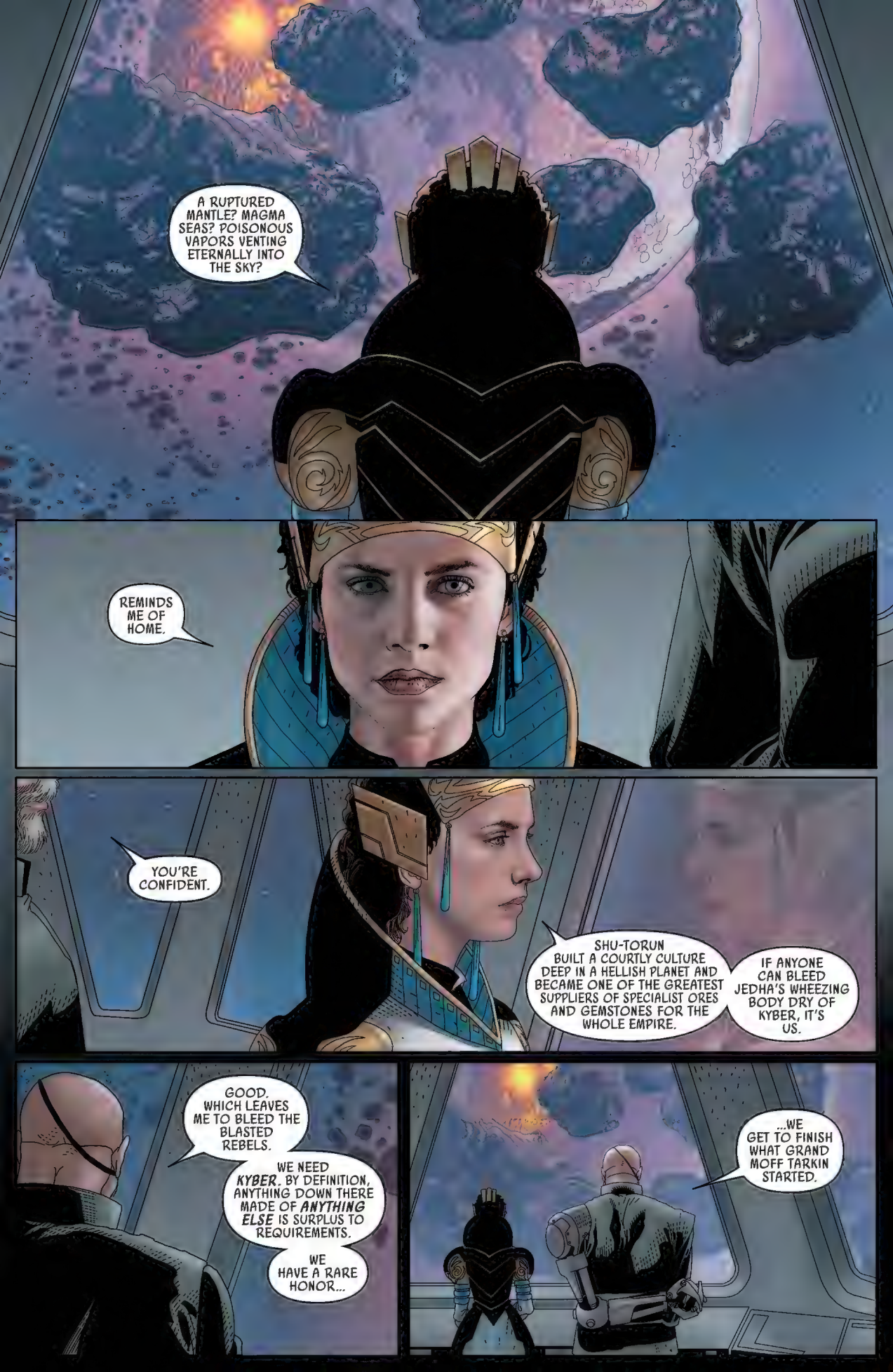
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME THE MAIN REBELLION HAS TRIED TO WORK WITH THE PARTISANS...
BUT THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED. THEY'VE NEVER BEEN INTERESTED.
THEY FIGHT THEIR OWN WAR, NOW MORE THAN EVER. SAW GERRERA MAY BE GONE, BUT WE OPERATE IN HIS SHADOW.
I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT WE ARE *ALL* UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE EMPIRE.
JEDHA. ALDERAAN. THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH. IT CAN NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY.
IT...IT WILL BE *DIFFICULT.*
YES. BUT DIFFICULT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE, AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN'T OVERCOME TOGETHER.
HEH. FINE SENTIMENTS, YOUR MAJESTY...
...BUT YOU'VE NEVER MET BRUTES LIKE THESE BEFORE.

SIR!
WE'VE BEEN SIGNALED BY COMMANDER KANCHAR.
HE'S COMING FOR AN INSPECTION...
WHEN IS HE... DUE?
OH, YOU *STUPID* BOY.
HE'S HERE.

SIR, THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE.
AND WHO IS THE BEAUTIFUL--
DON'T TRY TO SWEET-TALK ME, BEFA. IT'S NO "UNEXPECTED PLEASURE."
AND HANDS OFF THE ADVISER.
I'M QUEEN TRIOS OF SHU-TORUN.
I AM, AS THE GOOD COMMANDER PUTS IT, MERELY A CIVILIAN WITH EXPERIENCE IN MINERAL EXTRACTION.
I ONLY WISH TO ASSIST THE EMPIRE.
AND WE NEED HER HELP, AT LEAST WITH YOU IN COMMAND.
JEDHA WAS A RICH SOURCE OF KYBER, AND THE SHIPMENTS HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN LACKING BUT ENTIRELY ABSENT!

THE FIRST SHIPMENT IS IMMINENT.
THE SITUATION IS... HOSTILE.
WE'RE THE EMPIRE, YOU LITTLE FOOL. WE *THRIVE* ON HOSTILE. THE UNIVERSE SAYS "*NO*" AND WE TWIST ITS ARM UNTIL IT HOWLS "*YES*."
IT IS *DOUBLY* HOSTILE. THE RESISTANCE HERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN VIRULENT, AND THE PLANET ITSELF IS AGAINST US.
BLOWING A HOLE IN THE MANTLE DID NOT HELP ITS CLIMATE, SHALL WE SAY.
THERE HAS BEEN SOME SUCCESS.
AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE KYBER READY FOR SHIPMENT IMMEDIATELY...
GOOD. I NEED TO SEE THE REST TO ASCERTAIN ITS DESTINATION. SHOW ME.
SIR... THIS IS ALL OF IT.

COMMANDER BEFA, I WILL TAKE COMMAND. IMMEDIATELY. YOUR COMMISSION IS ENDED.
YOU WILL BE REDEPLOYED TO A POSITION WHERE YOUR TALENTS WILL SERVE REQUISITIONS BETTER.
WH-- WHERE, SIR?
SOMETHING IN AGRICULTURE, I THINK.
KKKKKK
AS FERTILIZER, SPECIFICALLY.
BRAVO.
YOU REALLY ARE ANOTHER FINE EXAMPLE OF A GRADUATE OF THE EMPIRE'S SCHOOL FOR CHARM.
YOU FORGET WHO I AM.
AND YOU FORGET WHO I AM, COMMANDER. I'VE BEEN INTIMIDATED PERSONALLY BY DARTH VADER.
AFTER THAT, YOU FIND EVERYTHING ELSE A LITTLE UNDERWHELMING. FROM YOU TO THIS MOON...


A RUPTURED MANTLE? MAGMA SEAS? POISONOUS VAPORS VENTING ETERNALLY INTO THE SKY?
REMINDS ME OF HOME.
YOU'RE CONFIDENT.
SHU-TORUN BUILT A COURTLY CULTURE DEEP IN A HELLISH PLANET AND BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST SUPPLIERS OF SPECIALIST ORES AND GEMSTONES FOR THE WHOLE EMPIRE.
IF ANYONE CAN BLEED JEDHA'S WHEEZING BODY DRY OF KYBER, IT'S US.
GOOD. WHICH LEAVES ME TO BLEED THE BLASTED REBELS.
WE NEED KYBER. BY DEFINITION, ANYTHING DOWN THERE MADE OF ANYTHING ELSE IS SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS.
WE HAVE A RARE HONOR...
...WE GET TO FINISH WHAT GRAND MOFF TARKIN STARTED.

Jedha.
HEY, BE CAREFUL! YOU NEED TO TREAT THE *FALCON* WITH MORE RESPECT THAN THAT! EASE UP!
SHE'S NOT ONE OF YOUR CHUNKY STUBFIGHTERS!
I *AM* BEING CAREFUL, HAN! WE'RE GIVING IT ALL WE'VE GOT.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT. LET ME OUT, AND I'LL TAKE IT IN AND--
WE CAN'T. IF THE PARTISANS KNOW WE KNOW WHERE THEIR BASE IS, THEY'LL JUST SHOOT US.
THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE.

HEY, MORE GENTLE!
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO HANDLE ME WORSE THAN THE SHIP!
SHUT YOUR MOUTH, CAPTIVE.
NO! THEY'RE NOT PRISONERS. THEY'RE HONORING OUR WAYS.
THEY COME LIKE THIS TO BRING A MESSAGE. WE HAVE TO LISTEN...
WE KNOW YOU CONTINUE THE WAR OF SAW GERRERA. WE RESPECT YOU AND THE SECRECY.
WE WANTED TO COME AS WE KNEW YOU'D WANT US TO. WE--
LEIA.
I CAN SENSE...I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US.
LUKE, TRUST ME. YOU CAN SHOOT ANY DEATH STARS THAT TURN UP. I'LL HANDLE THE DIPLOMACY.
YOU ARE BOTH RIGHT.
WE DO CONTINUE THE SPIRIT OF SAW GERRERA.

HE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU.
WE SHOULD, TOO.

STAR WARS™ NEXT ISSUE:

Tour
THE SEVEN SEAS
With
BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE
Call 555-FISH